

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

Urban Sanitary District.



Annual Report




OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1896.

Leamington Spa :

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ACREAGE	2,760
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POPULATION (Census 1891)	26,930
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„	Estimated to middle of 1897	...	27,320
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„	Per square mile	...	6,280
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Town Sewage, pumped to Heathcote Farm.

Town Refuse, disposed of to Farmers.

Height above Sea level	195 feet
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Geological Formation	...	New Red Sandstone
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Water Supply — Artesian Well on Campion Hill (depth
110 feet) and River Water for Flushing of Drains
and Watering of Streets.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR FRAZER (CHAIRMAN).

THE MAYOR.

ALDERMAN EARDLEY-WILMOT.

„ RADCLIFFE.

„ WACKRILL.

COUNCILLOR BARRETT.

„ BRIGHT.

„ BLAND.

„ FELL.

„ MOLESWORTH.

„ SMITH.

„ WENCH.

Sanitary Report

OF THE

Borough of Royal Leamington Spa,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON,

27th JANUARY, 1897.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to present you with my Annual Report on the Sanitary State of our Borough for the year 1896.

Births.

543 births (261 males, 282 females) were registered, giving a birth rate of 19·9, a slight rise on last year. It will be seen in Table II that more females than males were born in the 2nd and 3rd quarters.

TABLE I.

WARDS.	BIRTHS.	BIRTH RATE.	ESTIMATED POPULATION, 1896
North-East	158	21·4	7353
South-East	191	22·4	8517
West	150	19·9	7519
Milverton and Lillington	44	11·4	3881
	543		27220

TABLE II.

QUARTERS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.	BIRTH RATE.
1st	63	60	123	18·0
2nd	74	76	150	22·0
3rd	55	82	137	20·1
4th	69	64	133	19·5
TOTALS	261	282	543	

Mortality and Disease.

413 deaths (197 males, 216 females) took place, a decrease of 37 on last year's mortality. After balancing the 24 deaths of Leamington persons who died outside the Borough, against 27 deaths of persons who died in the Borough, not belonging thereto, the death rate is shown at the comparatively low figure of 15·1.

TABLE III.

MORTALITY FOR THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE YEAR.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.			DEATH RATE.
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.	
1st.	13	8	3	7	32	38	101	1	3	4	14·4
2nd.	14	11	2	5	28	31	91	1	...	1	13·3
3rd.	18	8	2	1	26	31	86	6	...	6	12·2
4th.	25	14	5	6	40	45	135	2	1	3	19·8
Totals	70	41	12	19	126	145	413	10	4	14	

Deaths at all ages were below average, except in 4th Quarter, when Inflammatory Diseases of the Lungs raised the mortality very much.

Deaths under 1 year show a proportionate infantile death rate of 127 per thousand births—an average rate.

31 Children who died under 5 years were insured, showing a slight increase year by year, since 1890, of infants insured in our Borough.

CAUSES OF DEATHS UNDER 5 YEARS.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	36
Premature Birth	13
Debility from Birth	11
Marasmus	10
Convulsions	9
Tuberculosis, including Phthisis, Tabes Mesenterica and Tubercular Meningitis	9
Dentition	2
Atrophy	1
Gastro-Enteritis	2
Whooping Cough	8
Diphtheria	1
Measles	1
Diarrhoea	1
Scrofula	1
Syphilis	1
Intestinal Obstruction	1
Accidental Drowning	1
Natural Causes	3
	<hr/>
	111

Mortality under 5 years was much above the average, Broncho-Pneumonia being responsible for almost one-third of the numbers. The figures under the headings of Premature Birth, Debility from Birth, Marasmus and Convulsions, point, in my opinion, to social and preventible causes.

The ignorance and carelessness shown by parents of the working class touching the diet and clothing of infants, and ventilation of rooms, are deplorable. Many young lives might be saved annually in Leamington if attention were paid to these matters.

As I have pointed out in former Annual Reports, I think the Board Schools might well substitute instruction on these points for some subjects which, I believe, will prove of doubtful use in after life.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	8
Enteric Fever (Typhoid)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 14

Giving a Zymotic death-rate of 0·4, exactly double of last year's rate; but still, comparatively, a very low one. Whooping Cough, which prevailed during five months of the year, accounted for more than half the Zymotic Deaths.

One death from Enteric Fever, of a person not belonging to Leamington, occurred in the Warneford Hospital, and is ~~not~~ included in the above figures.

Small Pox.

At the close of December, 1895, a tramp suffering from Small Pox was reported from Southam, as having passed through a lodging house in Leamington a few days before. The man was traced to 39, Satchwell Street, a common lodging house, where he had spent ~~one~~⁴ night. The bedding and carpets of the tramp's room were destroyed, the room properly disinfected, and all persons in the house were kept in quarantine, and under the supervision of the police, to prevent desertion, for sixteen days. None of the inmates, all adults, would permit vaccination.

I am happy to say that on the 12th January, 1896, no further case had arisen in our Borough, though the man spread the disease elsewhere.

Scarlet Fever (Scarlatina).

70 cases came to my notice, a great decrease in numbers after our experience of ~~1875~~¹⁸⁹⁵. We are to be congratulated on this point, as records show that the surrounding districts suffered much more than our town.

57 were removed to the Hospital. The disease assumed a mild form, and no death was reported to me.

In March, a case was found in the 5th Standard of Clapham Terrace School. This portion of the School was closed for fourteen days as a precautionary measure, and no fresh case occurred. I have reason to believe that many cases were introduced from outlying districts.

Diphtheria.

13 cases, mostly in North-East and South-East Wards, were reported. 2 cases occurred in the Warneford Hospital. Two deaths were reported. By means of the "Smoke Test," sanitary defects were found on premises of eleven cases, and were at once remedied.

Enteric Fever (Typhoid).

10 cases were reported, three of which were in Warneford Hospital (2 imported from a distance). All were treated at home.

Only three other cases could be traced, and I believe the disease was in each instance contracted away from home.

2 deaths were reported, in the South-East Ward and Warneford Hospital.

Measles

Was prevalent in February and half of March; then disappeared, to return in September, on through October and November, and gradually died away at the close of the year. Generally speaking, the malady was very mild, and spread with great rapidity amongst the Board Schools. Only one death was reported to me.

On 5th October I advised the closure of Leicester Street and St. Paul's Schools, and they remained shut up for six weeks.

On 30th October Rugby Road Schools were shut up for a month.

On 13th November St. Peter's Schools were shut up for a month, and on 25th November Bath Place National Schools were obliged to be closed for a month. At same time I advised that all Sunday Schools of infected districts should be closed for the same period as the Day Schools. Every School was thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

Whooping Cough.

As might be expected, this disease was not long in following Measles; and appeared and disappeared in exactly the same months as Measles. The disease was severe in type, and caused 8 deaths in children under 5 years.

Diarrhœa.

One death took place in South-East Ward in the month of August.

Erysipelas.

19 cases, some of them chronic, were reported. In no case were any sanitary defects likely to produce the disease found.

I may mention that School Officers and the Public Librarian are always communicated with in cases of infectious disease. I have no doubt such measures tend to limit the spread of infection.

It is an interesting fact, that of some twenty-eight ^{largest} ~~selected~~ towns in Great Britain and Ireland, where a water carriage system of disposal of sewage prevails, Leamington has the lowest death-rates from all forms of "Fever" and Diarrhœa.

General Sanitary Work—Improvements and Suggestions.

As usual, when occasion required, I carried out the instructions of the Local Government Board, more especially as to inspection of the various districts of the Borough, and also cases of infectious disease.

In common with my fellow officials I regret the death of our late Chairman, Major Edlmann, who will long be remembered for his kindly manner, and strong desire to further sanitary work. To me, personally, he was a great help, and ever in time of trouble or emergency I could depend on his ready aid.

Leamington was remarkably healthy up to the last quarter, when the severe weather induced a large mortality from inflammatory lung affections, and materially raised our death-rate, which, after all, was not a high one.

The most fatal Zymotic disease was Whooping Cough, which was prevalent with Measles during almost five months of the year.

Such an increase of work arose in the Health Department, owing to constant application of the "Smoke Test," and the large amount of disinfection to be done, it was found necessary to ask for an additional Inspector of Nuisances. At a special meeting of the Health Committee in December, after the testimonials of over sixty applicants had been carefully examined, Mr. Withers, of Bristol, was chosen out of three selected applicants, and requested to report himself for duty on 15th January next.

The great feature in the life of our Borough during the year has been the passing of the "Leamington Corporation Act," 1896, which originated in the efforts of our Mayor (Dr. T. W. Thursfield) to promote progressive reforms in local government, sanitation, and other useful purposes.

The new bill became a living fact on 1st November, and caused important changes in many departments.

From a Sanitary point, provisions were made to cause owners of property to permit application of "tests" to drains; for the attachment of proper urinals to inns, eating houses, and places of entertainment; for the erection of public conveniences and lavatories; for the furnishing by Dairymen of lists of customers in certain cases; for the furnishing of lists of customers by Laundries in certain cases; for the furnishing of lists of Sources of Milk Supply by Dairymen in cases of infectious disease; for the extension of Section 124 of Public Health Act, 1875, so as to apply to the removal to Hospital forthwith of infectious cases without the order of a Magistrate; for the appointment of trained nurses in cases of emergency.

The regulations of Common Lodging Houses were much extended, in point of supervision and sanitary conveniences.

The new Act gives permission to erect a Public Abattoir, a most important measure; and, for obvious reasons, the sooner such is carried into effect the better for the welfare of Leamington.

I would like to see new Bye-Laws made touching the keeping of pigs within certain distances of dwellings. At present this is a most pressing evil requiring reform.

Owing to the energy of Mr. Bright, a highly important addition has been made to our drainage system in the shape of high-pressure flushing apparatus attached to the river mains. If anything can keep our sewers clean, and our streets free from smells, I think Mr. Bright has hit upon the best plan. At present, these "flushes" are six in number:—At Radford Road; at Farley Street, to cleanse Russell and Leam Terraces; at Bath Street, to cleanse Bath Street and Spencer Street; at Upper Parade; at Chandos Street, to cleanse Park Street and Regent Grove; and at Windsor Street, to cleanse lower part of Church Hill.

In compliance with the Resolution of the Street Smells Sub-Committee, of January, 1895, two new shafts were erected at Leam Terrace East and Clapham Terrace, and are satisfactory.

The water supply has been satisfactory. The average consumption per head daily was 18·7; below average, owing to no waste from drought or long frost.

It has been deemed advisable to seek for a supplementary supply of water for the Borough, and the sinking of a new well is in progress at Lillington, in view of coming upon new "feeders" under the same strata already bored.

Constant complaints reach me regarding offensive smells from the various "Dust-tips" within the Borough, at Milverton, Radford Road, Tachbrook Road, and at Lillington. I think it will be found necessary before very long to provide a Refuse Destructor.

Again I must draw attention to the fact that Leamington has not a "Disinfecting Chamber," and has to depend on Heathcote Hospital, a system certain to break down some day.

The summary of work (Table IX.) performed by Mr. Anderson, our Inspector of Nuisances, speaks for itself.

255 drains were tested; 489 visits were paid to slaughterhouses; 160 rooms, including schools, were disinfected; and 16 houses were disinfected throughout.

1 Prosecution only took place, and a fine was inflicted for keeping an unlicensed Common Lodging House.

Not a single Sample of any description taken for Analysis was condemned.

Tables IV.—VIII. show the mortality, at all ages, by Wards and Public Hospitals, and arranged in Quarters.

Meteorology.

Mr. Barnitt, with his usual good nature, and after much labour and calculation, has again given the town his Meteorological observations.

Mr. Barnitt says:—"You will see that the number of rainy days was about normal. The amount of rain is a little over that of 1895, but below average nearly five inches, the first five months showing great deficiency. In May we had some extremely warm days, on 12th exceeding 80°. Also in June the temperature rose above 80° on two days, and in July on six days.

"During the first 17 days in May the rainfall was only .300 inches."

In conclusion, let me thank the new Chairman and the members of the Health Committee for their consideration and assistance during the past year."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SAMUEL BROWNE, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE IV.

NORTH-EAST WARD.

Estimated Population—7,353.

Death Rate—15·7.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	3	3	...	3	5	12	26	1	...	1
2nd.	2	4	...	1	7	8	22	...	...	...
3rd.	5	3	...	...	8	9	25	2	...	2
4th.	10	10	1	1	11	10	43	1	...	1
Totals	20	20	1	5	31	39	116	4	...	4

TABLE V.

SOUTH-EAST WARD.

Estimated Population—8,517.

Death Rate—12·2.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	6	1	1	...	9	9	26	...	...	...
2nd.	7	3	...	...	9	7	26	1	...	1
3rd.	9	4	...	...	1	8	22	4	...	4
4th.	6	1	...	1	10	12	30	...	1	1
Totals	28	9	1	1	29	36	104	5	1	6

TABLE VI.

WEST WARD.

Estimated Population—7,519.

Death Rate—12·7.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	2	2	1	...	10	10	25	...	...	...
2nd.	4	2	1	...	5	9	21	...	...	...
3rd.	4	1	...	...	6	7	18	...	...	...
4th.	4	2	2	3	11	10	32	1	...	1
Totals	14	7	4	3	32	36	96	1	...	1

TABLE VII.

MILVERTON AND LILLINGTON WARD.

Estimated Population—3,831.

Death Rate—12·7.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	2	1	1	...	3	4	11	...	1	1
2nd.	1	...	...	1	2	4	8	...	...	...
3rd.	...	...	...	1	4	5	10	...	...	...
4th.	3	1	...	...	4	12	20	...	...	...
Totals	6	2	1	2	13	25	49	...	1	1

TABLE VIII.

Warneford Hospital, Home for Incurables, River and Canal.

	QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
		Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
Warneford Hospital.	1st.	...	1	1	4	4	2	12	...	2	2
	2nd.	...	1	1	3	4	1	10	...	...	...
	3rd.	...	...	1	...	7	2	10	...	...	...
	4th.	2	...	2	..	4	1	9	...	...	...
	Totals	2	2	5	7	19	6	41	...	2	2
Home for Incurables.	QUARTERS.										
	1st.	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...
	2nd.	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	...
	3rd.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4th.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	...	...	...
River and Canal.	QUARTERS.										
	1st.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2nd.	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	3rd.	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	4th.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Totals		2	3	6	7	21	9	48	...	2	2

Table of Deaths during the Year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Leamington Spa.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Leamington Spa.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.										MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																				
NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						Under 5 5 upwards	1	2	3	4	FEVERS.*					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.						Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.														
North-East Ward ...	116	20	20	1	5	31	39	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	18	39
South-East Ward.....	104	28	9	1	1	29	36	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	77
West Ward	96	14	7	4	3	32	36	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	37
Milverton & Lillington	49	6	2	...	3	13	25	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	67
Warneford Hospital	41	2	2	5	7	19	6	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	75
Home for Incurables	5	...	...	...	...	2	3	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
River and Canal.....	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	41
Totals	413	70	41	12	19	126	145	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	63	110
																													195	303

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

TABLE XII.

METEOROLOGY OF LEAMINGTON, 1896.

Abstract of Meteorological Observations taken at 86, The Parade, during 1895, by J. BARNITT.

Latitude 52dg. 18 N. Longitude 1dg. 30 W. Height above sea level, 195 feet.

The Instruments have been verified at Kew and Greenwich, and the necessary corrections have been applied for index error, capillary action, temperature and diurnal range.

Month.	Mean of Pressure, 9 a.m.	AIR TEMPERATURE.								Rainfall.	
		9 a.m.	Means of		Absolute Maximum and Minimum.				Total Fall. Inches.	Number of Days.	
			Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Date.	Minimum	Date.			
January ...	Inches. 30·325	0 41·4	0 45·3	0 36·3	0 52·1	2nd	15th	0 26·8	22nd	·968	9
February ...	30·310	40·1	46·7	34·6	55·5	19th		23·8	26th	·374	7
March ...	29·770	45·0	53·2	38·6	65·1	24th		29·6	15th	2·035	21
April ...	30·140	48·2	58·7	41·6	68·9	22nd		32·2	2nd	·990	12
May ...	30·248	52·3	67·5	44·5	80·8	12th		35·2	1st	·308	3
June ...	29·923	59·5	73·2	53·5	85·0	15th		46·0	22nd	2·828	15
July ...	30·007	61·1	74·6	54·4	85·7	13th		45·8	29th	1·189	11
August ...	30·024	57·1	68·7	51·8	74·6	17th		44·0	27th	1·981	13
September.	29·726	55·6	63·5	50·4	69·8	9th		42·0	30th	4·017	23
October ...	29·724	44·3	51·7	39·0	63·8	3rd		23·1	22nd 29th	2·453	20
November .	30·156	39·6	46·1	34·7	50·9	12th		25·3	30th	·933	8
December .	29·751	40·6	44·6	34·9	52·9	30th		24·9	24th	2·871	23
Totals...	360·104	584·8	693·8	514·3						20·947	165
Means...	30·009	48·7	57·8	42·9						1·746	14

